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Sen. Goggans introduces personal protection legislation

ATLANTA- Sen. Greg Goggans (R-Douglas) has introduced legislation giving law abiding citizens the right to protect themselves if they believe force—even deadly force—is necessary to prevent death or bodily harm. Senate Bill 396 is currently assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

“When the things most precious to us, our lives and the lives of our loved ones, are threatened we absolutely should have every right to protect them without question,” said Senator Goggans. “My bill simply gives law abiding citizens the right to stand up and protect themselves if they feel their lives are being threatened no matter where they might be at the time.”

The legislation says that if a law abiding citizen is in any place where they legally have the right to be and reasonably believes it necessary to use force—even deadly force—in order to prevent death to himself or to another, then he has every right to stand his ground and meet force with force. Under current Georgia law, citizens already have this protection if the attack occurs in the person’s home or vehicle. This legislation goes further in allowing citizens to protect themselves if the attack occurs in any place they legally have the right to be.

“The Atlanta Journal Constitution, a paper with a tendency toward liberal bias, has come out against my bill saying that it is a “shoot first-ask questions later” piece of legislation,” continued Sen. Goggans. “This is simply not the case. I believe that the citizens of this state have the capacity to judge when their lives are threatened and to act accordingly. Senate Bill 396 merely gives them the

freedom to make that judgment call without fear of prosecution or retribution should this unfortunate situation ever present itself.”

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Sen. Greg Goggans of the 7th Senate District may be reached at ggoggans@legis.state.ga.us or 404.463.5263. He represents all or portions of Atkinson, Bacon, Berrien, Clinch, Coffee, Cook, Echols, Lanier, Pierce and Ware counties.